

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A locking device for an elongate object comprising:

a strap having first and second ends;

a first loop at the first end of the strap for encircling a first end of an elongate object;

a second loop interconnectable at one of a plurality of locations along the second end of the strap, the second loop being adjustable in size for encircling a second end of an elongate object; and

a lock for interconnecting the second loop at the one of the plurality of locations of the second end of the strap and for locking the size of the second loop.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tether extending from the locking device for attaching an elongate object to a fixed object.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the tether includes a stopper interconnected therewith for positioning within a car window for attaching the strap and an elongate object to a car.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3 further including a pouch interconnected with the tether for storing the locking device when not in use.

5. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus for an elongate object comprising:

a first loop positionable about a first end of an elongate object;

a second loop positionable about a second end of an elongate object;

a strap adjustable in size for connecting the first and second loops;

a tether interconnected with the strap for attachment to a fixed object; and

a lock for locking the apparatus.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein one of the first or second loops is adjustable in size.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the size of the adjustable loop is fixed by the lock.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the size of the strap is fixed by the lock.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the tether extends from one of the loops.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the tether extends from the strap.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein a stopper is attached to the tether for connecting the locking apparatus to a vehicle.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein a storage bag is connected to the tether.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of locking an elongate object comprising:

positioning a first loop about a first end of an elongate object;

positioning a second loop about a second end of an elongate object;

securing a strap between the first and second loops;

locking the strap to one of the loops;

providing a tether attached to the strap; and

~~securing the tether to a fixed object.~~ providing a stopper on the tether; and

securing the tether to a fixed object by extending the tether through an open car window  
to position the stopper within the car and raising the window to secure the stopper within the car  
to fix an elongate object to a car.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein a storage bag is interconnected with the tether and the method further includes storing the loops and strap within the storage bag when not in use.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap, the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether.

22. (Previously Presented) The locking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.

23. (Previously Presented) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop, the tether strap formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car.

24. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a material flexible along its entire length for extending about a surfboard, the loop positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The locking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.

27. (New) A locking apparatus for an elongate object comprising:

a first loop positionable about a first end of an elongate object;

a second loop positionable about a second end of an elongate object, one of the first or second loops adjustable in size;

a strap adjustable in size for connecting the first and second loops;

a tether interconnected with the strap, the tether extending from one of the loops, for attachment to a fixed object; and

a lock for locking the apparatus.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the size of the adjustable loop is fixed by the lock.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the size of the strap is fixed by the lock.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the tether extends from the strap.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein a stopper is attached to the tether for connecting the locking apparatus to a vehicle.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein a storage bag is connected to the tether.



33. (New) A method of locking an elongate object comprising:

positioning a first loop about a first end of an elongate object;

positioning a second loop about a second end of an elongate object;

securing a strap between the first and second loops;

locking the strap to one of the loops;

providing a tether attached to the strap; and

securing the tether to a fixed object by extending the tether about a fixed object and  
locking an end of the tether to the strap.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the tether is locked to the strap at the location where  
the strap is locked to one of the loops.

35. (New) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a material flexible along its entire length for extending about a surfboard, the loop positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether.